

Fact Sheet – Nestboxes

Build a Nestbox: Eastern Rosellas

These charming birds are common in the gardens of south-eastern Australia, taking their choice of berries, seeds and occasionally insects. They also feed on the ground and are common on farms that have retained some trees and forest. Their populations in some areas are probably limited by nesting opportunities and young birds in particular can often be seen inspecting potential nesting sites. They take readily to nestboxes.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, farms and suburbs. Generally replaced by Crimson Rosellas in taller and denser forests. Further north they are replaced by pale-headed rosellas and northern rosellas. Similar nestboxes may be useful for those species.



Map: Distribution of Eastern Rosellas in Australia.

Nesting information

- Time: June to February, earlier in north of the range
- Position: Tree hollow
- Height 2-15 metres
- Eggs: 4-6 white eggs
- Incubation: 19-21 days
- Fledgling: 5-6 weeks

Nest box maintenance

Rosellas are shy birds and the box should be observed from a distance or through a window. These parrots may desert a nest if they feel they are being watched. Normal procedures for removing feral animal nests should be maintained. Food or structures that attract feral birds should be removed from the area.

Building your Nest Box

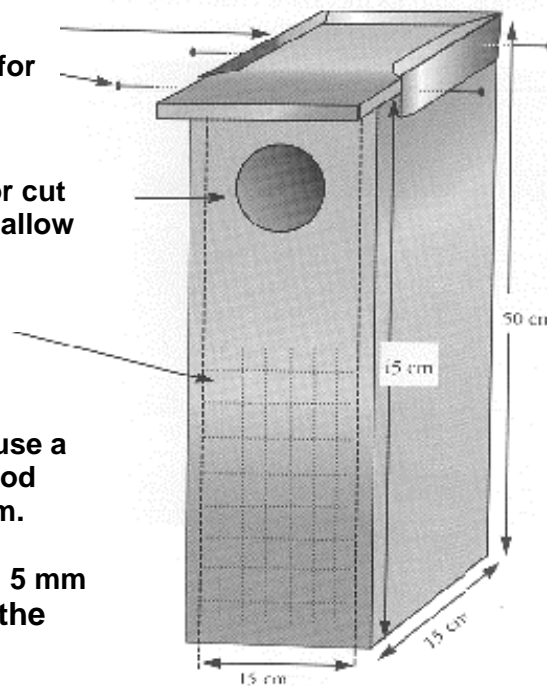
Height above ground 4-10 metres

Tin flange for waterproofing.
Pins can be removed for inspection of box.

A ladder of wire mesh or cut steps on the inside will allow the young to climb out.

Special Instructions
These birds will only use a box with a layer of wood shavings in the bottom.

Drill three well-spread 5 mm drainage holes into the base of the box



Credit:

Grant, Jim, 1997, *The Nestbox Book*, Gould League of Victoria, Melbourne.